

Latinos in the 2010 Elections: Oregon

This statistical profile provides key demographic information of Latino eligible voters in Oregon.¹ It also contains data on other major groups of eligible voters in Oregon.² All data are based on Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey.³

Hispanics in Oregon's Eligible Voter Population

- The Hispanic population in Oregon is the 18th-largest in the nation. Some 417,000 Hispanics reside in Oregon.
- The population in Oregon is 11% Hispanic, the 14th-highest Hispanic population share nationally.
- There are 125,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Oregon—the 20th-largest Hispanic eligible-voter population nationally. California ranks first with 5.4 million.

- Some 5% of eligible voters in Oregon are Latinos, the 20th-largest Hispanic eligible voter population share nationally. New Mexico ranks first with 38%.

- Three-in-ten (30%) of Latinos in Oregon are eligible to vote, ranking Oregon 44th nationwide in the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote. In contrast, 79% of the state's white population is eligible to vote.

	United States	Oregon	Oregon State Rank
Total Population (all ages)			
All (thousands)	304,060	3,790	27
Hispanics (thousands)	46,822	417	18
Percent Hispanic	15.4	11.0	14
Total Eligible Voter Population (U.S. citizens ages 18 and older)			
All (thousands)	210,696	2,708	27
Hispanics (thousands)	19,346	125	20
Percent Hispanic	9.2	4.6	20
Eligibility of Hispanic Population			
Percent of Hispanic population eligible to vote	41.3	29.9	44

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters

- Age.** Some 36% of Hispanic eligible voters in Oregon are ages 18 to 29, greater than the share of all Latino eligible voters nationwide (31%) in that age range. By contrast, only 21% of all Oregon eligible voters and 22% of all U.S. eligible voters are ages 18 to 29.
- Citizenship.** Two-in-ten of Hispanic eligible voters in Oregon (21%) are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 5% of all Oregon eligible voters. Hispanic eligible voters in Oregon are more likely to be native-born citizens (79%) than are Hispanic eligible voters nationwide (74%).
- Educational Attainment.** One-quarter of Latino eligible voters in Oregon (24%) have not completed high school. That was less than the rate for all Latino eligible voters—26%—but greater than the rate for U.S. eligible voters nationwide—13%.
- Homeownership.** Some 56% of Hispanic eligible voters in Oregon live in owner-occupied homes, compared with 60% of all Hispanic eligible voters nationwide. Somewhat greater shares of all eligible voters in Oregon (68%) and all eligible voters nationwide (70%) live in owner-occupied homes.

Table 2
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Oregon and the United States, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	UNITED STATES		OREGON	
	All	Hispanics	All	Hispanics
Total Population (thousands)	304,060	46,822	3,790	417
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)	210,696	19,346	2,708	125
Age				
18-29	21.7	30.9	20.7	35.8
30-44	25.6	30.9	24.7	33.5
45-54	19.6	16.8	19.7	15.7
55-64	15.3	10.6	16.8	7.5
65 and older	17.8	10.8	18.2	7.6
Gender				
Male	48.3	49.2	48.8	49.8
Female	51.7	50.8	51.2	50.2
Type of Citizen				
Citizen by birth	92.5	74.4	95.4	79.3
Naturalized citizen	7.5	25.6	4.6	20.7
Language				
Speaks only English at home	86.9	30.2	92.6	50.4
Does not speak only English at home	13.1	69.8	7.4	49.6
Educational Attainment				
Less than high school diploma	12.9	25.8	9.8	24.0
High school diploma or equivalent	29.3	28.9	26.6	27.0
Some college	32.0	31.3	37.2	33.6
Bachelor's degree or more	25.7	14.1	26.3	15.4
Marital Status				
Married	52.0	46.5	52.8	44.5
Never married	27.2	34.7	24.9	35.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.8	18.8	22.3	20.0
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home	26.3	32.4	24.7	33.2
Homeownership Rate	70.0	59.8	68.0	55.5
Household Income*				
Less than \$30,000	20.4	22.9	21.4	25.8
\$30,000-\$49,999	18.1	20.4	19.3	25.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	19.9	21.3	21.2	20.0
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.7	14.4	15.0	13.2
\$100,000 or more	26.8	21.1	23.1	15.5

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Oregon, by Race and Ethnicity

- Number of Latino Eligible Voters.** Among the total population in Oregon, whites outnumber Hispanics by a margin of 7 to 1. However, white eligible voters outnumber Hispanic eligible voters in Oregon by 19 to 1.
- Age.** Latino eligible voters are younger than white eligible voters in Oregon. Among Latino eligible voters, 36% are ages 18 to 29 compared with 19% of white eligible voters.
- Educational Attainment.** Hispanic eligible voters have lower levels of education than do white eligible voters in Oregon. One-in-four Hispanic eligible voters (24%) have not obtained at least a high school diploma compared with 9% of white eligible voters.
- Homeownership.** Hispanic eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in Oregon to live in owner-occupied homes—56% versus 70%.

Table 3
Characteristics of Eligible Voters in Oregon, by Race and Ethnicity, 2008
(% of eligible voters, unless otherwise noted)

	Hispanics	NON-HISPANICS White
Total Population (thousands)		
	417	3,021
Total Eligible Voter Population (thousands)		
	125	2,379
Age		
18-29	35.8	19.3
30-44	33.5	23.9
45-54	15.7	19.9
55-64	7.5	17.5
65 and older	7.6	19.3
Gender		
Male	49.8	48.6
Female	50.2	51.4
Type of Citizen		
Citizen by birth	79.3	97.9
Naturalized citizen	20.7	2.1
Language		
Speaks only English at home	50.4	96.5
Does not speak only English at home	49.6	3.5
Educational Attainment		
Less than high school diploma	24.0	8.8
High school diploma or equivalent	27.0	26.9
Some college	33.6	37.4
Bachelor's degree or more	15.4	26.9
Marital Status		
Married	44.5	53.6
Never married	35.6	23.5
Divorced/separated/widowed	20.0	22.9
With Child(ren) Younger Than 18 in Home		
	33.2	23.8
Homeownership Rate		
	55.5	69.5
Household Income*		
Less than \$30,000	25.8	20.9
\$30,000-\$49,999	25.6	19.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.0	21.4
\$75,000-\$99,999	13.2	15.0
\$100,000 or more	15.5	23.7

*Persons in households with zero or negative income excluded (less than 1% of all eligible voters in the U.S.)
Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older. Percentages may not total due to rounding.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2008 ACS (1% IPUMS sample). More information on the source data and sampling error is available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/design.shtml> and http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf

Table 4
Population and Electorate in Oregon, by Congressional District, 2008

Congressional District	ALL <i>(thousands)</i>		HISPANICS <i>(thousands)</i>		SHARE HISPANIC <i>(%)</i>	
	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters	Population	Eligible Voters
1	794	536	102	27	12.9	5.0
2	758	563	82	29	10.8	5.1
3	755	519	82	22	10.9	4.2
4	730	562	43	18	5.9	3.3
5	753	537	107	30	14.2	5.7

Note: Eligible voters are citizens ages 18 and older.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center compilation from U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder Tables B05003 and B05003I

Endnotes

- ¹ Eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. Eligible voters are not the same as registered voters. To cast a vote, in all states except North Dakota, an eligible voter must first register to vote.
- ² The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably. References to “whites,” “blacks,” and “Asians” are to the non-Hispanic components of those populations.
- ³ This statistical profile of eligible voters in Oregon is based on the Census Bureau's 2008 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS). The ACS is the largest household survey in the United States, with a sample of about 3 million addresses. The data used for this statistical profile come from 2008 ACS Integrated Public Use Microdata Series ([IPUMS](#)), representing a 1% sample of the U.S. population. Like any survey, estimates from the ACS are subject to sampling error and (potentially) measurement error. Information on the ACS sampling strategy and associated error is available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/accuracy2008.pdf. An example of measurement error is that citizenship rates for the foreign born are estimated to be overstated in the Decennial Census and other official surveys, such as the ACS (see Jeffrey Passel. “[Growing Share of Immigrants Choosing Naturalization](#),” Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2008)).